

Congressman BRAD SHERMAN

CONSTITUENT SERVICES PROGRAM

WE CAN HELP WITH

Social Security • Medicare
Business Services (SBA and Export Assistance)
Military Academy Appointments • Tours of Washington
Veterans benefits • Unemployment Benefits
Foreign travel (passports, visas) • IRS problems

Call Us for Help (818) 501-9200



Congressman Brad Sherman and his Valley staff are available to help you solve problems involving the federal government. We have helped thousands of Valley residents.

IMPROVING VETERANS BENEFITS

Sherman cosponsored the *G.I. Bill of the 21st Century* which was signed into law last year and provides increased education benefits for qualified military personnel and children of deceased active-duty service members. Sherman also voted for a 3.4% pay raise for our current military personnel and additional access to health care and housing assistance for military families.

This year, Sherman supported legislation that would increase funding for veterans health care by \$14.5 billion. That legislation awaits consideration in the Senate.

Congressman Sherman and his staff are able to help Valley veterans receive the benefits they deserve—call his Valley office at 818-501-9200.

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Official Business

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Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.
This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

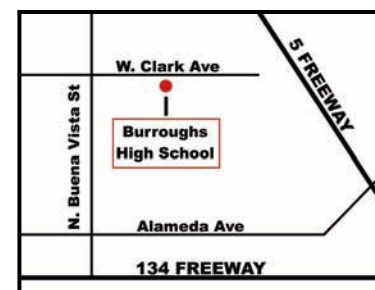


Congressman BRAD SHERMAN TOWN HALL MEETING

Please come to Congressman Sherman's Town Hall Meeting. This will be a chance for Congressman Sherman to hear the views of Valley residents on health care, the economy, taxes, education, and all of the issues facing Congress. The event, parking and refreshments are free.

Sunday, December 6th
3:30-5:00 p.m.

John Burroughs High School
1920 W Clark Ave., Burbank



CONGRESSMAN
BRAD SHERMAN

REPORT TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY



TOWN HALL MEETING

DECEMBER 6TH

SEE BACK FOR DETAILS

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN. WORKING FOR VALLEY FAMILIES.

FIGHTING WALL STREET BAILOUTS

Last year, Congressman Sherman fought against the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout (commonly known as “TARP”) sought by former President Bush. Unfortunately, the bill passed and taxpayer money

went to the biggest Wall Street firms without adequate controls.

Now the Treasury Department is pushing Congress to pass a law that would give the Federal Government

permanent, unlimited authority to bail out the largest firms on Wall Street—“TARP on steroids.” During a recent hearing, in response to questions from Congressman Sherman, the Treasury Secretary even refused to agree to a \$1 trillion limit on this new bailout authority.

As reported recently in USA Today, Congressman Sherman is now leading the effort to prevent the Executive Branch of the Federal Government from getting the authority to provide unlimited bailouts to the giants on Wall Street.

OVERDRAFT “PROTECTION”

Congressman Sherman is working on legislation to prevent abuses in overdraft protection. New legislation would require banks to obtain the consumer’s consent before enrolling them in expensive overdraft programs. Banks would be required to warn customers when an ATM transaction would cause an overdraft and give the customer the opportunity to cancel the transaction before the overdraft fee is charged. Finally, banks would be prohibited from reordering withdrawals to maximize customer fees.



CREDIT CARD REFORM

Congressman Sherman cosponsored the *Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights Act*, which President Obama signed into law last May. The new law bans retroactive interest rate hikes on existing balances, double-cycle billing and due date gimmicks.



The bill also protects cardholders against arbitrary interest rate increases and requires the card companies to allocate payments to pay-off the debt that bears the highest interest rate first. It requires companies to mail statements at least 21 days before the due date.

Some credit card companies are trying to increase rates before the new law goes into effect. That’s why Congressman Sherman cosponsored the *Expedited Card Reform Act* to move up the effective date of these reforms. Sherman helped pass the Expedited Act through the Financial Services Committee last month.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

Since going to Congress in 1997, Sherman has secured over \$26 million to improve the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area and the Santa Monica Mountains. Last month, Sherman secured \$1 million to purchase land in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area that was in danger of being developed. The Bull Creek Restoration Project in the Sepulveda Basin was recently completed as a result of \$2.5 million secured by Congressman Sherman.

Sherman has a 100 percent lifetime voting record on the key environmental issues identified by the Sierra Club.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Since the economic downturn began last year, Sherman has been working to ensure the government provides struggling families and small businesses with assistance. Congressman Sherman is focusing on methods to maximize the stimulus now, while minimizing the increase in the national debt.

Congressman Sherman cosponsored the *Worker, Homeownership, and Business*

Assistance Act, which President Obama signed into law this month. The new law extends the \$8,000 homebuyer tax credit for first-time homebuyers who buy their home before April 30, 2010, and provides a \$6,500 credit to many homebuyers who have already been homeowners.

The bill provides up to 20 additional weeks of extended unemployment benefits for California residents. For details on how this



extension applies in particular circumstances, contact Carolina Krawiec in our Valley office at (818) 501-9200.

The new law also includes a tax provision that will allow Valley small businesses to “carry back” tax losses that they incurred in 2008 and 2009 to offset profits from the previous five years. This allows these businesses to get a refund *now* of taxes they paid earlier this decade, rather than using their 2008 and 2009 losses to get tax deductions in future years.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

Congressman Sherman cosponsored the *Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act* that was adopted by the Financial Services Committee last month. The Consumer Financial Protection Agency will ensure that banks treat customers fairly and have the authority to prevent and punish abusive financial company practices.

